



## MISSOURI SENATE JEFFERSON CITY

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November 22, 2013

The Honorable Jonathan Jarvis  
Director  
National Park Service  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Jarvis:

Regarding the proposed General Management Plan (GMP) of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways (ONSR), we have concerns that the National Park Service has not taken into great enough account the input from directly impacted citizens who live, use, and work along the Riverways.

Our goal is to provide citizens with a variety of recreational opportunities while continuing to preserve and protect the economic, natural, and cultural resources of the ONSR for future generations. The current proposals under the new GMP do not address our primary concern:

Tourism is one of the most critical components of our rural economy and the ONSR is the primary attraction. Thousands of out-of-state as well as in-state hikers, campers, boaters, hunters, fishermen and horseback riders visit this area annually and bring many irreplaceable dollars when they come. Any further limitations on the access to these assets would severely impact this local economy.

While our legislative delegation agrees we need to protect the ONSR, we must not overlook our citizens' heritage and livelihood. We were disappointed that your initial review period had only two open houses for citizens to give their input. Only one of those meetings is located in the region; the other was in St. Louis, which is 150 miles away.

Providing directly impacted citizens with an opportunity to have input on this critical issue is essential for the success and future management of the ONSR. The economic and cultural importance of the ONSR to families and small businesses in Missouri will be threatened if the "NPS Preferred Alternative" is implemented. It appears that the goal of this plan is to shut down public access points to the rivers, eliminate motorized boat traffic from certain areas, further restrict boat motor horsepower in other areas, close several gravel bars, and propose additional areas to be designated as federal wilderness. We are adamantly opposed to all of these proposals, as are our constituents and business owners.

We support the "No-Action Alternative" to the current operating system. The ONSR value to the region is unparalleled. Do not adopt a GMP that is contrary to our wishes, those of our constituents, and the other folks who depend on access to the Riverways and cannot operate with additional government regulations. In our opinion, the ONSR is already over-managed with burdensome federal regulations. The Riverways support a vibrant and growing tourism industry that is critical to our region and state.

We will continue to strongly advocate against further encroachment by the National Park Service limiting our citizens' access to public lands. As you continue with the process, we hope you will consider our comments and those of the directly impacted citizens who will be affected by your actions.

Sincerely,



Doug Libla  
25<sup>th</sup> District State Senator

cc: Congressman Jason Smith  
Senator Roy Blunt  
Senator Claire McCaskill



Sen. Scott T. Rupp  
District 2



Sen. Gary Romine  
District 3



Sen. Mike Kehoe  
District 6




Sen. Will Kraus  
District 8



Sen. Brad Lager  
District 12



Sen. Eric Schmitt  
District 15



Sen. Dan Brown  
District 16



Sen. Ryan Silvey  
District 17



Sen. Brian Munzlinger  
District 18




Sen. Kurt Schaefer  
District 19



Sen. Jay Wasson  
District 20



Sen. David Pearce  
District 21



Sen. Tom Dempsey  
District 23



Sen. John T. Lamping  
District 24



Sen. Brian Nieves  
District 26



Sen. Wayne Wallingford  
District 27



Sen. Mike Parson  
District 28



Sen. David Sater  
District 29



Sen. Bob Dixon  
District 30



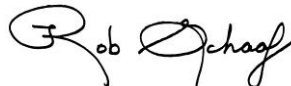
Sen. Ed Emery  
District 31



Sen. Ron Richard  
District 32



Sen. Mike Cunningham  
District 33



Sen. Rob Schaaf  
District 34